# *American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection*

## *Part 1: Missionaries*

# The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

### *Series I*

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

### *Folder Description:*

Correspondence,
February 19, 1928–March 4, 1928

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Tsingtao, Shantung
10 Kuan Hai Road
February 19, 1928

Dearest Ones!

How do you like this paper? It is a wood cut made by one of the girls here - and she let us order some from it. I thought you might enjoy it for a change. It is one of the famous camel-back bridges of the summer palace in Peking. I think she has done quite well on it. Mother, dear Have two other kinds I'll use later. I got 150 sheets + have so much paper I don't need any - so thank you don't think of sending any.

Well this has been a full week. But before I tell of it - let me thank you Eula + Ray + boys for the fine picture. It came + I enjoy it so much I think it is perfectly splendid! Everyone has complimented me on my good-looking family! + I'm mighty proud of them too!! Eula that is a lovely dress - looks so nice. Ray you're not quite so fat are you? Better this way! It's a better picture of Richard than I've ever seen before! Is Winfield a little thinner? They are adorable kiddies. Their eyes look so snappy + bright. Bless them it is so nice to have them. Thank you!! How they have grown!! The lads ought to be proud to have their suits so well used! Those are cute suits!

Well, the full week began with a final on Acts and it was a hard one. I don't know my grade but I passed I think! On Mon. P.M. we have our little group prayer meeting and it was most blessed. In evening we had Miss MacCurdy here

for supper. She is one I've often spoken of of the Hwaiyuen station. She's so splendid. She leaves this week. Such a nice evening we had. She is so spirit-filled. Every contact seems to bring a blessing to those she meets + not in a "preachy" way but so spontaneously overflowing! She's been a great blessing and inspiration to me. Tues. P.M. after class I went to a Miss Ling's for tea - only this time it was for Chinese food. Chiao-mien - (fried noodles with dried shrimps etc - oh so good!) She is such a charming Chinese girl - Been in Chicago to the M. E. Training school (8 yrs ago). She helps in the church here so much. It was she who got the church interested in our poor folks - + they gave their Christmas offering to them. I enjoyed her so much. When we first went we had tea + candy served + then later ate the noodles etc. That night Miss Stewart of the Tsining station was here for farewell - she went Wed. back to Tsining. (My! I'm running up hill on this paper). Wednesday Miss Chiao + I went after class to see Mrs. VanDyck. They are also of Hwaiyuen - Their little boy of five has a spot on his lung and because they can't go up to mts here they are having to take him home + Mrs. VanDyck needs an eye operation so they are leaving. They are another marvelous family! I read to David out in the porch while Miss Chiao visited with Mrs. VanDyck her former teacher in Hwaiyuen. Then on Thurs. went with Miss Chiao to the fish market + such a variety of sea food - octopus - sea slugs + all!!! We went then to the Mandarin inn where she helped us order the food for Fri. eve. Mrs. E., Hallie, Anita + I invited Miss McCurdy's friends + ours among the Chinese to a feast. It was great to hear Miss Chiao order it + the way she managed it + the respect they showed her etc. There is such a charm about the Chinese - I surely do enjoy them

31.

This special room was #3 extra some decided not to have it — but when we came They said we were to have it — I think they surely outdid themselves to have it nice. This a new management so of course they needed to! We had famous "birds nest soup". It is so delicious. The gelatinous substance used in a kind of swallows nest with white of egg etc. and then famous shark fins which are very fine in texture and most pleasing to eat. There was an interesting dish of powdered chicken bread + powdered beef! There were 13 all together of us. Hallie's teacher wrote the invitations — lovely big red ones with beautiful Chinese characters in black. We invited some too in whose homes we've had feasts. I think all enjoyed it. I'm sure we did, having them. These extra out-of-hour affairs along with the regulation work and an examination over 100 characters in combination really making 200 has surely kept us busy.

Now for the next month will have a class for drill in personal work conversations. I'm so glad for its just what I've been wanting. I've tried by myself to talk some + sometimes I can get over some meanings all right but the point is to get these sentences on our tongues and just so they'll come out in good Chinese + be able to say them with "Chinese flavor". We've had so much emphasis on this recently. Mr. Tewksbury says most foreigners talk with a "milk flavor" + he wants us to get a garlic + opium flavor." Of course the last is a joke but he means to be

7. to say is as a Chinese says it tone, rhythm
accent + all. We're trying to become children +
learn to imitate what we hear. I'm so glad for
this class. So many times its difficult to get the
point of contact on which to build the story -
I was buying from a man yesterday - gave him
a tract which he read - said he'd heard
from a lady I knew. We had quite a conversa-
tion + I thoroughly enjoyed it. I told him about
church + asked him to come. The girls were back
farther, they said he was there. I wanted to
see + get some one to speak to him but he
came too late + got out too soon but I'm glad
he was there. I feel that personal work is to
be our big work - especially now - it may be
we'll have to be workers like the 100 yrs ago
when there was no permission given - in these
days of change + stress + upset still one to
one - and it can be done. I enjoy that most
of all.

We're still hot on the trail of a Chinese home + I
believe the Master will answer our prayer. We
may have to move April 1 as this house may be
rented to those willing to sign a six-months
lease!

Your Jan 18. letter came Thurs. Thanks for Mrs. Waldeck's
card. "The best laid plans of mice + men gang aft
agley" Bessie Clark's letter just came + she did
not understand my letter + only sent the Etta one
amber drop. So I'm sorry! Chinese would say "I
have no face" having promised your birthday
present etc. I'll get one to you tho. I can't quite
decide how tho - Elisabeth Goertzen is going home
(health) + she could mail it to you - but I don't
know which way duty would be most to do
that or mail it. The officer who takes your packages seems to
have indigestion or something so I'd like to skip
him if possible but I don't know yet but rest

assured I'll send one somehow. I have one here the mate to mine, + I rather hate to bother Bessie again so I'll probably send this one. Sorry for the mix up - but please forgive it!, Bless you sweet mother to be thinking of my health. I do take care of myself + will be careful, Rolled up in a warm cover on the cot out on the sunny porch I slept 1½ hrs. this P.M. - do sleep everyday, + when I'm weary just stop! That was nice Bud could be with you those days! I'd love to have an old pow wow with him. So glad Aunt Callie has work. When did Earl go to aviation school + where?, + what for? Has he enlisted in the aviation corps or is it for commercial flights. What's the point? That's too bad about the church disturbance Hope it's all cleared up now! We had word from the big Fall Bible classes in Pyengyang. 1300 men came from all over Korea. Paying own expenses + travel. They had early morning prayer meetings at 6. each day + there were practically 1000 at every one of those meetings. They said such a wonderful spirit was manifest and practically all dedicated for 1st. time or reconsecrated lives to the Master. Most of them were young men too. It surely is a wonderful report!

Tonight Mrs. E. told such a funny true story. Mrs Niles of Hwaiyuen said her lesson for kiddies in S.S. was to be something of how tribulation brings blessing + as she was puzzling how to bring that truth to kiddies she found a geranium for her example. She let them smell it + there was no special fragrance. Then she pinched + broke it + it was fragrant. She thought she'd gotten her point over. The next Sun. she couldn't get much from them in review till she said do you remember about the flower + one little fellow piped up." If you pinch a Christian

he smells"!! "Isn't that rare?
Well, I think eventually our 'report will be done.
I can't keep it up to date as money still comes'.
I've changed that total with every proof reading.
We've read + reread but even so I hold my
breath to know what it will be like for
fear of mistakes, We sent to Lunghsien 196.00
and Tchowfu - 70. just this week. This surely has
been a blessed experience! I'll send you
pictures with your copy of 'the report'.
Mather, I don't want that check for your amber -
what shall I use it for?
Ray, I did so enjoy your annual!! with the enclosures
of bulletins + announcements etc! Your most sage advice
is admirably heeded - so is this but may I allay your fears
by saying the widower is engaged to another + so is
Arnold so you've no hope but to have an old maid
sister-in-law! What had you eaten or drunk before you wrote that
letter - flower tea maybe you were so "flowery" as to be
almost untrue! I can't retort in that vein I fear - However
I'm relieved if you'll still claim me tho a miss!
I feel so glad to be representing your church - also you +
Eula. As I feel definitely your prayers had much to do with
my being here + being willing in first place. I'm sorry I'm
such a poor representative tho!! Did you see that
news item published here from N.Y. that Pres + two other big
denominations failed to add one convert in 1927. I see this
15 or 20 on confession of faith doesn't sound so!! I know the
thing is wrong of course! Mercy days! You must have had
as great a shock as the boy who learned there was no Santa
for you not to hunt Christmas presents. 12 days before you
might say it - but I'm doubtful as the time drew near
that you were so angelic. Didn't Eula take your temperature?
You might make that annual - a semi - at least!!
Well, dear ones, I must get to bed its nine o'clock.
I wrote Mrs. Warner + Marie this P.M. have a list of over
50 there on the pad! I'm hopeless. Please give my best
regards to all my supporters!! Tell them not to forget
to pray for me in "these awful idioms" + sounds + assure them
I'm so happy to belong to someone!!
Best love to all! My! I'm feeling all the more the
privilege of being here + am so glad to be chosen
of Him - but so unworthy! Dear ones I love you all
so much + could wish to be with you even a little
while!! but He knows + is enuf! How sweetly He
satisfies + fills the empty places!
Love + God Bless you - Rev. 2:17. - Irene

10 Kuan Hai Rd
Tsingtao, Shantung
February 28, 1928

My dearest Loved Ones:

Mon. nite & my letter is late a day but I want to begin writing? may not get it finished tonite but I can write a bit anyway. Such joy is in my heart tonight. Our Mon. eve. prayer group met today & what a blessed time we had!! You'll be happy to hear the reports given at it of revival breaking out all over China. Here in Tsingtao I know there has been much in evidence One thing said today was a five of the children in the group of Southern Presbyterian children who have had definite experiences of conversion. Chinese groups this week are having prayer meetings. The little independent church last Sunday had so many new members. I went to one class in which Miss Ling this fine Chinese girl had a group of girls from the government school & her telling was their first contact with the gospel story. She is having them for Sat P. M. sewing class etc! I want to follow thru with her now as

she teaches them more & more -
News has come from Mr. Coonradt
of this field who goes out in the
country. He said he'd never had
such a trip as he'd just had.
Such working of Holy Spirit - he'd
never seen before! Mrs. Coonradt
went & she said in one meeting
the leader said we'll sing a hymn
& then Mrs. Coonradt will preach.
She was stumped but said she
took John 1 & literally the Holy
Spirit preached a real sermon -
afterward her husband asked her
where she'd gotten & prepared it
& she told him it was only of God.
At some meeting I'm not sure at
his, a man got up & publicly
confessed his sins & prayed -
At one place the Christian group
followed them ever so far &
on leaving sang "God be with you
till we meet"

Then in the very seat of the
powers of opposition, in Nanking
comes this news. While there is
a boycott on ricksha - men or
merchants who deal with
foreigners - five Chinese evange-
lists went from Shanghai to
Nanking to preach & had 7000
attendance & 2000 openly took
the step of confession of Jesus.

¶ It is just beginning of a revival! We've had such a blessed deepening just among ourselves! It is indeed wonderful. Two girls came here one last last week for help on sanctification - some had been urging them on to sinless perfection we used some material I had + these girls with it + help from Mr. Hacks on his return have gone to new depths + surrender! It has brought all of us to a new place. I went today to the Japanese hospital with an older missionary + how pitiful we find some cases - It was so wonderful to hear her talk to them. It is such a joy to hear her tell the gospel story. + I talked some to a dear little old lady who goes home ~~Tues~~, + not to her knowledge is there a Christian in the village!! How simply one can tell it - must tell it + how sublime it is in its simplicity I know I can't conceive tho how really empty + hopeless is a heart without God + it's difficult to really realize the void! Oh, for a new vision of His love +

to a new vision of sin + what it means to be lost. Surely with this burned into our hearts we'd be so full we'd have to speak - even so falteringly. I have had some such blessed conversations with a few + more + more we are praying that every contact be a witness!

Have a brand new teacher today. Mr. Lewksbury felt another girl needed Mr. Li more than I + so I have Mr. Chow. He is very fine too — Mr. Li is better now - doing full time beginning this week. He came Thurs. p.m. after Miss Chiao left + we too have a most wonderful talk about the Holy Spirit + what His fullness means etc. He is a rare personality - (the one mentioned in the report as preaching so well)

Last Friday - Miss MacCurdy left to try to go back interior + we hated to see her go. She's been a real blessing!

American mail brought two home letters - that was an interesting article about "foreign devil chickens"

5) Ours was a present from the grocer here who carries foreign goods, I expect it might have been so dubbed - tho all I heard was "big fowl or chicken"!

It was such a sweet letter Mumsie precious that you wrote telling of your love + all. Honey mine, you are so precious to me + I can't say how much you mean to me!! Your love is such a treasure - my own dearest Mumsie mine!

Didn't you ever put that check from electric stock back into the electric company - I thought it was simply a transfer - I don't seem to be able to recall that at all - maybe my check went into Union + Savings but I don't think so - See what Leo finds out, So glad the church affair is O.K.

Does Earl get paid for flying, or have any assurance of a job etc - I'm a bit mystified as to the point in it!

I'll enclose Betty's copy of her Christmas letter home - was just about to put it in the waste paper when it came to me you might enjoy it.

At last our committee reports are thru + I'll send one. Just want to use it if you want the pictures

4) which accompany it, I've put them in the Woodburn letter. I've sent them a report copy too but haven't duplicate pictures. They can't send to you last so you can keep them.
I'll have a scroll to send to the church in a little while but don't say anything, I'll surprise them later.

How the boys are skipping along! That's fine! That was interesting to get some chinese tea from another lady. That was quite an experience with M. Stubblefield. I'm sorry about Mrs. Where is Blaine?

Dearest ones, I must close now. This isn't much of a letter but I have to study + its nearly nine — so will close. Tsining has voted to ask me to come there — There are many factors in the question. Glad I don't have to decide it. Mr. Eames is here for a week + then at executive meeting they'll "saw + quarter" me!

Nity nite — I didn't send that amber by Elizabeth Q. + haven't decided whether to risk it again or not by mail — But will —

Nity - nite -

Lots of love -

"May you be filled with the knowledge of His will". Irene

Miss Huo wrote on the envelope
Top" right + left Mei Kuei (America
Fan lao t'ai t'ai - Honorable Mrs. Fan.

Sunday - March 2
"Rocky Valley"

No.

Dearest Loved Ones:

Mumsie precious - can you imagine to what I'm listening to - to my new Baby Decca victrola + Swanee River played by Kreisler - At last I have gotten it + how I have enjoyed it in just these few days I just can't tell you! But my enjoyment of it really is a small per cent of the joy your gift has brought + is bringing. Miss Huo + Miss Fan especially Miss Huo just loves it. We were eating breakfast + she said "Worthy aunt, won't you play for us?" She is playing it as I write. She she is the adopted sister of Miss Fan so she too called me "aunt" 大姑. Just now she is playing "Souvenir" - I just am so glad to have these pieces. -- Yesterday the cook + teacher took it to a nearby village - played a couple of pieces + gathered a huge crowd to whom they preached + gave out a lot of

of tracts + testaments (I mean 'John's')
so see honey it will very usefull
in more ways than just to give a bit
of entertainment. We've had big
crowds at the church in the afternoon
to hear it. Have a few Chinese records
+ 2 or three good foreign ones! I
must tell you about it. I had
not been in long enuf to look at
Laingtoo - then when I did I found
they had $95 - one only - Martha
Wylie was going to Shanghai for
nurses conference so I had her
look. She got a baby Decca for $
49 - see your check sold for 62
so the difference will get records.
She was supposed to come back
on a Wed + bring it so I sent
the cook in to get it - we're not
very far away this time (60¢ bus fare)
+ here Martha had been unexpected-
ly detained to go up interior to
Laining (Eames' station) to care for
Dr. Chalfant who'd been quite ill
with pneumonia + so the vic had
not come. Erva knew I'd be dis-
appointed so she + Lydia sent
Lydia's + a few records on out
so we'd not be disappointed -

3] + the, also news that in another week mine would come. She had several very fine records - Victor - from M.B.I Broadcasting Trio "He will never cast you out & Can't get beyond the circle of His love". I think I see if I can get them in Shanghai cheaper than paying 75 gold now. as gold is so high now. Christmas gifts sold for 2.88 Mex for $1 gold + this last salary was 2.81. If I can't get them I'll send to the colportage they also have other splendid! Chinese like them + tho often many do not like foreign music just as we can't appreciate the chinese ones, strange to say a number have preferred these to the chinese ones! The christians appreciate hymns tho for they hear them all the time. Miss Hsu just put it away + said to thank the "worthy lady" who sent them, for all the joy + happiness it has given her! This one is about half the weight of Lydia's about 7 lb. + so clear + is orthophonic. I surely do like it + am so glad to have it! Thanks again mumsie dear.

4. We got off on the ten o'clock train & came by cart over 25 li to "Rocky Valley" on the 18th. of February. The road was not very wide & the carters did not know the road so we had a few "exciting" moments going over bridges etc but arrived without mishap about 4. It was nice getting back - this was the first place last fall to which I came with Miss Chaw & Miss Wang, so felt like meeting old friends. Truly it was too! They've opened a little primary school & so the church & out buildings were occupied by teacher. I was glad, too, for they gave us a new - three-roomed little house - so clean & we have the great luxury of a bath room. See we still all three sleep on one brick bed - this one has a warmer, softer bed with my big fur underneath & their 2 cotton mattresses. I sleep in my own blanket - (the lavendar cotton Eula got for me & use my down puff & that's all I need) & they sleep under their covers! We've lived so long in one room that it is very easy - we all know about what the others habits are & it doesn't take long to get settled comfy! Since there was the extra room & I'd brought the bath - bag we fixed

5] ups! I had a small tin tub which the cook put into the basket & it just fit & then other things were packed in it so carrying the tub was easy! On a space out in middle room we hung the bag & hung my kaki bed spread for a door for the 3rd room, lo! we were fixed! Miss Hus used it first & they too loved it! A.M. I use it first hot water & then I shout to cook who pours in cold water in the bag for the cold splash, I still think these cold baths have helped me to be so well - for I haven't had a cold all winter! so far. They said I must not forget to thank you for them for the bath-sack too! It is a real luxury! The second day I was just so plain tired (the few days in at home) were just so full & tiring with the news of Uncle Alva's & Auntie A's deaths & all - I just couldn't get up & so I shamelessly slept all day! By night I felt so much rested! The first couple of days then we spent going to hunt the Christians in the neighboring villages. One day went to Miss Tan's grandfather's place. He is dead but his second wife is living. This is near the mountains & all here raise dates, apples grapes & a kind of small sour apple. The land here is very valuable. We went out & saw her grandfather's land. According to the old Chinese law the daughter's get no inheritance - Miss Tan's mother is the only real heir of the old grandfather this second wife has 2 girls by a former

(6) husband — but miss Tan's mother can't get a penny! It will all go to a distant nephew — it is the idea of continuing the family name - Wang + the old custom of sons only being important — Before the old man died he wanted to sell a piece + give her the money - but no one dared buy it for fear of this nephew who'd been made an adopted son, + what he'd do to them after the old man death. This is surely a land of opposites + to our way of looking at things some of old ways are strange indeed! Second day went to miss Hu's original home - met a lot of her relatives. This village is very industrious. Besides the farming almost every home has its side business of making paper + kind of bean flour noodle. Every available vital wall space we saw on our first entrance was plastered up with sheets of wet paper drying! Boys + girls were "papering" the wet sheets on the walls with a brush. This paper is made of old paper + straw + rags etc - collected in Tsingtao sent down there. They first put in a big iron pan + boil + then put it thru the stone grinding mills + then put this pulp in a big stone bath tub affair + water, from it it is collected on a bamboo frame in sheets + dried

7) + carried to all the country priests seed!
Also saw them make the "hsi fen tiao"
flour noodles. Dried slices of sweet potatoes
No. ..................
+ beans, are ground in a mill + put thru a
process making a stiff very white paste.
They — the whole family can do this + so
have all the profits — a small tin
deep pan, with perforated bottom is hung above the boiling vat
of water + this thick paste is pounded
thru — coming out in endless string of long thin streamers
which fall into the boiling water — Boiled +
stirred till done then pulled out into
a vat of cold water. Wrapped in loops 1 ft long over
a stick + hung to cool + dry! I was
amused at the dexterity with which the
man when the stick was looped full
he bit off the fat string of noodles.
This is really a very good + easily digestible
+ nourishing food. It is put in various
vegetable dishes. Itself has no great
flavor but is flavored by the meat + vegetables.
I had eaten this for a couple of years — so
was very interested in seeing this process.
On Saturday we opened class. I
want first to tell about a wall we
saw built in front of a house near
the river bed. The wall, quite high + beautiful was built to
keep the river from carrying with it
all of the mysterious forces in the
earth which would bring them wealth
happiness etc. — It was quite a striking
illustration of the superstition we still see.

8| Miss Hus was ill Sun + Mon. Suddenly fever went up to 103.8 but we got it down. So Wed. we could follow a real schedule + divide in classes.
The local church has provided well for those who have come from other places to the class. They give them dried grass for fuel - also have bought fish + cabbage for them to use. Better than at Ta Hsin Tan. There about about twenty regular ones + then a group of "straggling attenders"! There is such a pitiful old lady. She gave me the first ground bean + vegetable hash, a very famous + good country dish, last year that I ever tasted. She is we learned last nite like the old lady I told you of at Ta Hsin Tan who was converted - only this one hasn't yet been - She too formerly had a man living with her, she too - is a real agent of Satan, by feeling the pulse she tells what one is ill to which temple or idol to go to + just how much paper + incense to burn and sure enuf they get well - She's clever as can be. She knows the gospel message. She surely is near the Kingdom - she says she will believe but she still wants to serve both Satan + God! She comes all the time to class + understands it all! Last week she promised not to after the New Year

9] sacrifice - she had a dream that puzzled her + frightened her - But, the Christians explained it to her + said she must not let Satan frighten her - that it was God calling her! She says sometimes heathen others criticise Christ is so sad she cries! She'll come I firmly believe!"

One day a group of heathen women came from a very secluding wealthy home. Ordinarily they were not even permitted to leave their own courtyard to go out to the street anyway. They came for medicine that excuse would let them out - & they heard for the first time the gospel story!

It's been pretty upset here with bandits a li or so away. All that they've taken have been killed - because they'd planned it poorly + were about to be caught. We've had perfect peace.

Ray did you enjoy the "Peking Leader" I'll send the recent one. We must remember China's sorrows - U.S. with a new country + new civilization was over 100 yrs getting to stability after revolution - + France was too - now China's revolution is only 19 years to fit a most ancient civilization + change to meet needs of a modern world - + what's more change an absolutely different civilization.

10] near us is village without one christian + we just heard that the whole village has planned + taken oath to not believe. If anyone believes he's to be driven out + home burned! Satan still is Lord in this land!!

Cook brought your letter of Jan 29. Thanks for Sarah's letter - I wrote her a few weeks ago + she's had it by now! I wonder if she'll ever be really well: I guess she will just have to be happy with this - glad you had the chance to go to the concert - so near Portland you can go often.

Today Mr. Davies was planning to come out to have communion service. But in the night it rained so! - Last week when cook when in the two buses before him tipped over because of muddy road - it's rained a lot this month Cook said it was just God's grace that he wasn't in the first ones. Mr. Davies probably couldn't make it Sorry it would have been nice to have heard him. Mr. Lang led. It was the first for several months I have happened to get to Keep. See this way it is just by chance that I can keep communion. One girl was baptized + eight who'd had infant baptism given communion -

11 I was interested in the report of presbytery & the overtures. Women being ordained seems to be of much lesser importance than the merger of course it means the begining of changes to let them be ordained. The merger is more wide-sweeping. Tho in the first one I might be ordained I am not particularly wanting that. I wonder how it will turn out whether or not like the Canadian union with a continuing church. In case of Canadian's their mission territory in China all went to the union. The question is more pertinent to me than you thought. Of course it would be up to us to decide whether we'd continue or not in the present status under the Board & our pension money were paid etc etc – However that is the future & that is not in my hands that is the Hands of Him who daily provides & leads, – I always think well C.I.M. is fundamental & if there comes a time I can't work here or under present organization I'd apply to them. However this field is very true & fundamental, – the girls with whom I work are, & the missionaries in the station are, the question never comes up – naturally it isn't

12 as evident as it would be in a union institution for instance. I don't think many modernists would do the country work. However as to that I am making an unsupported statement.

Yes, I get salary while home. Get it on a gold basis maybe $120, I am not sure. Did you think we were to be supported by relatives or savings. The Board sends us home + in many cases we have to travel + speak etc. so it is only fair for us to get our support. Surely couldn't expect us to live on savings — A girl wrote asking where I'd be in summer + wanting my rooms for her + Sara Perkins. I may let them have them for what I'd have to pay for a room maybe a Peitaiho or elsewhere. If you + Mrs. Warner came tho I could not. Well well see —

There was a most interesting heathen funeral last week. A wealthy woman — the old parent of a large family. On day of death all family dressed in cheap, untrimmed white cloth garments, women with hair down + flying, very close members of family also put on coarse gunny sack with rope tied around waist + head — Sons leaning on short coarse wooden canes, all go in a weeping procession to the small stone temple not over 2 feet high or 1½ foot wide, where they are

13) presumably escorting the spirit to
this little temple of god of earth. All
bow + burn incense + bring a bowl of
starch No. water or sweetened water 月 in 日 which
is a bit of raw millet or handful of
rice. The second day was what Miss
Tan + Hus saw here. It was the ceremony of
escorting the spirit out of the temple +
sending it to the "Southwest". That is
what all non-christians call the other
world. That day four tables put together
placed near the temple and on them
were plates of all kinds of cookies +
a tea pot + tea cup. A chair with a
pillow in it placed before the table,
All again dressed in the coarse
white, crying that hopeless hollow
cry of the hopeless mourning, come
to the temple. The son holding 3 incense
sticks stoops at the tiny opening
of temple + all the rest kneeling with
heads to the ground, encircles the in-
side of the little temple calling, "Mother
come, come!" They say the incense sticks
really bend over + its just Satan's
power + then they know the spirit has
taken hold of the sticks. Then he, stooping
carried them - as if carrying a person
on his back to the chair. All kneel +
call, mother eat, + drink, it's a long
road ahead - eat all you can +
get ready to go! The sons helps spirit
on the chair + then after she supposed
to be full + satisfied he carries her
again to the side - where This
time they had a cow + a sedan

14] chair + a horse, all made of paper pasted on a bamboo frame work. The paper creations are most realistic; The cow because it can drink dirty water has special benefit + is used only for women whose sin is supposed to exceed that of a man The cow can thus in a sense drink up her sins + bear her guilt. On the horse were great bunches of paper silver money. The son helped her to the sedan chair + all called - Mother - go South west!! Then all was lighted + as it burned was beaten with big sticks - Sometimes various paper people or servants are burned. Then the procession goes weeping home again. Then later comes the burial. Tables of food + cakes are spread to be eaten by the spirit - (which is supposed to have gone however) As they leave the house with the coffin a big pottery pan - about the size of the iron one used to cook in - which has a big cake or bread cover made 3 in or so thick + as big as the pan - is put on the son's head. This is to be to dead ones stove in next world - in which to prepare food. Just as they leave - someone takes the pan + crashes it the ground + the

15| bread cover is carried on a frame in the funeral procession. We went to see it. They let me take a picture of the table of food. A great deal was raw - fish only cooked a wee bit - the whole idea is to have it appear attractive. There were 25 plates of cookies, then twenty bowls of various foods at each end, in center a pig's head, fish, chickens etc! I got a picture of two bowls - in two chickens fixed to look like monkeys - as clever as could be, with paper clothes & hats & paper faces - smoking cigarettes. When the procession came the coffin preceeded by banner & spirit tablet & this pan cover each in a special framework. The women kneeled at one end of the table & men at the other weeping while the mother was supposed to eat! Then on they went. We didn't go to the grave - but often a handful of various meals is put in, a little lighted lamp full of oil & if it is a man & wife buried side by side there is a small window connecting the two graves. Graves are all brick lined & dead are buried not very deep so the dirt mounds on top are high.

16) I forgot to say that when the spirit was send Southwest — the daughter cried + they said "you mustn't cry now you'll get her spirit all confused + still not find the way!"

There is much of seeing thoughtfulness — for death but then after all it is just mostly for outward appearance. The sadness of it always haunts — absolutely no hope! How we must pray more + [illegible] all we can to bring them Hope the Hope in Christ!

Just had the best news — Mr. Coonradt's cook came + said they in some place had met a group of christians preaching. It was the group of older girls in the Sui chia chen church where we were over Christmas. That minister whom I told you was so cold + backslidden but before we left seemed to have come back! He has organized all of those older girls leading them out into the outlying villages to preach! I am so happy. They were in my John Bible class — not that I take any credit for this because a thing of this kind is only of the Holy Spirit alone — no matter how much ability one has, one never could accomplish this!! They are still having their classes on Wed. + Sun. I feel sure. How I praise Him for a wee part in such a miracle of grace. Just pray for the Holy Spirit's power; we need that + that only — all the rest is added! Have spent most of spare time of this day on this — now evening church is over, + supper. + a time singing songs with the group of girls — now for a rest for the morrow. nite — nite loved ones — + may God richly bless + lead you. Thanks for your love + prayers + lovely time!

Friday Eve.
March 4 - 1928

My dearest Ones!

Still at my Chinese home and I like it very very much! Have just come up from supper - we talked for a long time and I did enjoy it so - They surely are fine people & are unusually thoughtful and kind to us. They go out of the way to be nice in so many ways. Two weeks & over now has passed & I've not decided yet about remaining here longer but will have to soon. Last Wednesday one of the table boys of Language School came & asked for me & Mrs. Chin was there while he talked. He

3] I don't know words yet - get a general meaning - that helps! I wrote Wed. before the Confucian + Shama temple affairs - well, I went cut classes P.M. as did a great number of the students - It was very interesting + was glad I went - - I'll write about it on a copy letter as I must get the next one off. Have gotten some new filler different kind - will see if this typewriter ribbon works + if so this filler will do so if you haven't don't order the other till I tell you. Anyway I'll get it for the written letters and for the present it will do. -

Mon. March. 7.

It is raining out today just this P.M. + that is the first for so long - one other rain since we've been here + that was "unusual". After school it started + I can see why

-2) said a man named Lui told him I wanted a "boy" to work for me - well, Mrs. Chin talked to him + he said I had come to stay one month and then would return to Language School - why - he said it I can't imagine as it had no connection with my wanting a "boy" - any - way what use I'd have for one is beyond me except a ricksha man - but Mrs. Chin was quite upset about the month part. She has mentioned it several times already - and they try so to make us comfy - I'd feel I'd need a good excuse for leaving or they'd feel badly + it is such an advantage to be able to hear the Chinese spoken all the time - tho lots I don't understand - Some

4 It isn't very popular with folks as they wear cloth shoes + rain spoils them so - then the mud gets awful! I walked to school this a.m. + it was so nice - not muddy and I made such good time!
It is interesting going down the little streets to see all the early morning performances - This street is lined with little shops + homes - + some live in the shops - The street is the front yard for many (Some of things - many in fact of the things I describe are probably not the usual things but it is the unusual which strikes one - so don't think because I write of unusual + different customs + things all are this different because often I've equally struck with the likenesses in many things)
Since we got early we see many who just seem to have gotten one + traces of sleep

5] and drowsiness are very evident! Part of morning ceremony is washing the mouth + teeth — the chinese have a specially shaped cup for the mouth cleaning + in it a tooth brush + metal something about 1/2" wide + shaped liked a long slim horseshoe. As I was going this a.m. I heard such horrible gaging + sounds which might come from one being strangled + wondered at the apparent indifference of all I passed! Farther on I saw a man by the corner of a building out on the street + from him were coming these awful sounds. He was using this horseshoe liking tongue scraper + scraping his tongue — of course he must get back to the "root of the matter" + when he reached the root that caused all the gaging + gasping — beyond words!

4 correct & she looked at me with greatest intelligence and said "you are right" I repeated the question "what use have these paper things" & again she assured me "you are right" — I went gayly on – comforting myself that maybe she is a Southerner ~~or~~ Shansi or Shantung person who doesn't speak Pekinese!! It is funny! However some just assume because we are foreign we don't & can't speak intelligibly! Today at breakfast, I realized how practise is needed. I tried to tell Mrs. Chin about something "when she was out yesterday – & what I said was when she was married yesterday. She is full of fun & likes jokes so they all had fun out

6] to describe. Sarah said for months at P.U.M.C., in nurses training each morning, "outside" she heard such sounds & did so pity the man who was so nauseated every morning & wondered why he didn't see a doctor — but she found that he was just scraping his tongue and she describes it as going all the way to his toe nail to begin! Our Chinese family either don't do it or have a maxim silencer. This A.M. I was so amused — coolies were carrying paper houses — large & very real looking which they burn for the dead — along with other things & I asked an old lady what they'd use them for — I used my best Pekinese — & it has worked before so I insist it was

8 it. The difference was I used an expression which ending in la meaning out away from home, + ending in tzu means getting married!!"

I guess I told you of calling the flag an egg — so we begin on the long funny twisting road of using this fascinating language! I love it so!! — what I don't attempt to say isn't worth saying — even Sarah gets stumped try to translate + get me out but with use of my head + hands I sometimes get out all right.

We took pictures of the house + man + all yesterday which I'll send soon. I want you to feel happy about my being here + not worry at all!

9] Betty came to hospital Sat A.M. + then on over here to stay till Sun. eve. She is better but still very weak and must rest. Mrs. Chin was so thoughtful to give her food she could eat with her teeth out + gums sore. We had a nice time + it was good to see her again. She went back in P.M. + I went to church. A Salvation Army man sang "Oh that I knew where I might find Him" from Elijah the oratorio. He has such a splendid voice + I enjoyed it very much!

There was such an amusing incident in the newspaper Saturday. It seems last week the street car hit a chinese riding in a ricksha + killed him + the ricksha man is in hospital. Well the mourners - all dressed in white - just went out

11) Today's paper showed a possibility of the north perhaps uniting with the conservative wing of the South or Nationalists who have one Radical party controlled by Brodin a Russia. If they can unite to eject Russia + have peace — The allegiance of many northern generals seems rather doubtful + many seem to be joining the South.

Back from Pres.

There is a Dr. whose home hospital here + who goes home is in Seattle on furlough in June or July — She will be going to Portland + she said she'd like to stop to see you. also has an uncle in Grants Pass so maybe Eula + Roy could have her too! I'd love her to stop + see you.

10] on Hatamen on the main line of car - & sat & lay on track from 1 P.M. till 5 P.M. and refused to move! They demanded some payment to the family of the man killed a long crowd gathered & police came & kept the crowd in order but didn't touch the mourners. Car were lined up eight blocks & transportation just closed! Letters were sent back & forth & finally a settlement at 5 P.M. was reached & the cars started on their ways —

Our lady & Mr. Chin are very much in favor of Feng Yuhsiang. They said he is rather quiet now as he doesn't believe in just killing without a cause & is only buying from Russia. They feel he is the future hope in a way for China

12 Wed. Eve. — Whoopee!! Letters came yours Mummie of Feb. 14. – one from Clyde, Pearl, Ron & one from a Moody friend you forwarded! Oh the thrill of it!! Bless you Mummie mine how you just never miss a mail! always one from you & dear I know with all else it isn't easy! How I look for those letters – no matter how many come the mail just isn't complete without yours! I am satisfied when the home letter comes. It was such a good letter – I praise God for your trust in Him to keep us for we are safe & all right. Above all keep that sweet trust – even if Ella is provoked that you aren't worried it shows a far bigger love not to be – I am happier far too because I know

13 and can rest that you aren't worried and are at peace because of your trust in Him! If you were worried & fretting it would be harder here too. Just praise Him for the peace of God that passes thought and may that peace continue to keep your hearts and minds; no matter what - even if we were in midst of fighting as some are God is still keeping.

Grace wrote of 200 C.I.M. missionaries having to leave interior + not a life lost - goods lost - but that's not so big in comparison - We must learn to be content in Him + not dependent on worldly goods for happiness - anyway I am glad for your trust!

15) True after in my descrip-
tions of things here. I don't
write of the ordinary things
which we see all the time
at home, which are the
same in China, & I'm not
wanting all Chinese classed
as all doing all the things
we write of. Sometimes one
from England will ask
about something in America
and another person make a
general statement, & about
four or five speak up &
qualify it. So realize
that concerning things in
China - often they fit all -
but more often not all'.

So the tea arrived & I
judge in time & I'm so glad
you like it. I expect since you
are alone to have a tea might
be much work - use it for
aid or sometime that won't
cause extra work.

14] We didn't see the Shanghai incident you referred to ~~that Ella wouldn't ... your had ... about~~ - probably some one's trip out of the interior - I've been ~~thinking~~ to - look how many hundreds have made even that trip in safety & without accident up in thousands of miles in Shanghai & probably most of them got there without great suffering. I'm not belittling their experiences but it's the incident that make "good news-paper stories - hair-raising etc that get written about - and hundreds of safe uneventful trips never are recorded. So don't let those exceptions prove the rule for all. It is

16) Will you send Ella the enclosed card? Stamps count up so with 10¢ for each letter. Interested to hear about Hanna's – Ladies aid & all. I am relieved that Mr. Moon isn't suffering so –

It is awfully nice of folks to say they like the letters – It is sweet not to be forgotten. It still amuses me to think of them being published for they are far from master-pieces – Mother you must have a real paper bill if you send to all – As long as they help & people don't tire of them I don't mind.

Dr. Johnston out where Betty is has a [illegible] feller [illegible] so will try it first.

Going out to Yen Ching University for the week end. A Mrs. Tukesberry from there was in one day in the same room with Betty at P.U.M.C. and we met

17 her there. She wrote asking her
to come out & to bring me too.
Wasn't it sweet of her to include
me? I think it will be nice
to go. Will leave Sat. A.M. & come
back Sun P.M. It is out in the
country there and very nice.
I have written a description
of our little street - was
going to just enclose but
have decided since it was
longer than I meant to take
copies of it & see if it
can all of the street pict-
ures I wanted to send in
it & will enclose them
later but won't hold
up the letter for it! But
must close now. I spent
about 3 hrs. on ~~that~~ des-
cription. Tomorrow call
of Mrs. W.W. She is wife of
Warren's friend - a very
famous ~~Doctor~~ Clinic Doctor who has

18 done much in cholera + plague prevention + research - so I'll write about that later. ~~Your Feb 7. letter came today~~ + was so glad to get it. Exams next week so must get busy on lessons.

Bye dearest ones + loads loads of love to all. How I value your prayers!!

Love
Irene.